



Evening



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The Night Before Christmas.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads, And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled ourselves for a long Winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash; The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below; When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick, I knew, in a moment, it must be Saint Nick; More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.

"Now Dasher! now Dancer! now Prancer!

Now Vixen! On Dondor and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!

Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky.

So up to the housetop the coursers they flew With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and dancing of each little郊.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot;

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,

And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack;

His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a chip;

His dimples little mouth was drawn up like a bow;

And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly;

He was chubby and plump, and a right jolly old elf;

And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head

Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work;

And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk;

And lit by his finger aside of his nose,

And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle;

And away they all flew like the down of the thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

THE CHRISTMAS WINDOW.

MRS. HELEN C. WARNER.

How well do I remember that Christmas ten years ago, which seems but yesterday, so swiftly does time fly when one is happy. We had little but sorrow and anxiety before that day, for we were poor, and mother had to work hard to keep us children fed and clothed, and father was always at the tavern drinking up his wages faster than he earned them, though he was a good workman and well paid.

We kept a little store in Green Lane.

We, means mother and I; for, although mother bought the things and took care of the money, I stood behind the counter and sold them; and in the spare hours, or on rainy days, when we had few customers, I used to knit and crochet little odds and ends to sell, for which I had the money to buy my clothes. Besides me there were three other children, all younger: Jimmy, Fred and the baby.

On the particular Christmas of which I was speaking, we were sadly in want of money, for the store needed repairing and we must make additions to our little stock or our new neighbor across the way would get our trade; so we determined to make our little window look more tempting than ever before, hoping to attract custom and add to our scanty income.

It was Christmas Eve and we were busy waiting on the customers who had come in. We were very tired, having worked so hard all the week before to get the store in order. Mother had made molasses candy, pop-corn balls, and ginger bread dolls, besides going about to buy what things her purse would allow. Jimmy and I cleaned all the shelves and counters and the

window; while even little Fred helped by keeping the baby quiet, who, I am sure, did all he could by being a very good child and not bumping his head too often.

What pride we took in decorating that little window! We couldn't afford any curtains so we took some nice white paper and notched the edges, cutting diamonds and crosses and round hearts above, under which we pasted a strip of gilt and it was real pretty; prettier, we thought, than a new-born shade. We had two pots of ivy that mother had trained to meet overhead, and these we used in place of evergreens.

Then Jimmy and Fred strung bright red and yellow apples in alternation across the ivy, and we covered big marbles—"allies" the boys call them—with some of the gilt paper that was left, and hung them by rubber strings so that they danced up and down right merrily.

In the center of the window we set a large doll, the best we could afford, dressed by myself. Mother used to say I was made for a dressmaker. She wore a white dress with a long train, and a veil, with pink shoes, and a bow in her hair to match, and she carried a beautiful handkerchief made from a piece of lace paper, such as one finds in cigar boxes.

Then we filled up the rest of the window with candy and nuts, oranges and cornucopias, and when it was all complete Jimmy and I used to steal out every little while when we thought no one would be passing, and admire it, and say how much more handsome it was than our new neighbor's could possibly be.

But poor mother was nearly tired out, and partly from care of the baby at night after a hard day's work, but oftener from anxiety about father, she was thin and pale; and though she entered into our enjoyment at this time, still, when she was busy over something we could see the tears in her eyes, and then Jimmy and I used to whisper to each other that when we were grown older we would always take care of mother, and she never should cry any more; but ah! how little could we understand her heartaches.

We had done pretty well that day, and mother felt quite encouraged, for we had more customers than any year before, and several noticed how pretty the window looked, and when they spoke about it, my mother said, "My children did that." How shy and proud Jimmy and I were! But in spite of our pride and success, there was a cloud on our happiness that grew darker and darker now that the hurry and excitement was almost over, for father had not been home for over a week, and, although he had often stayed away for several days at a time, it had never been so long before; and when the stalwart workingmen, who knew him so well, came in with their little ones to buy some Christmas candies and asked after him, mother's voice almost failed her when she was obliged to say he was out, and she didn't know when he would come in. And then they would cast a pitying glance at her, which was harder to bear than all the rest.

We hardly thought of the Christmas day, for it would only be like all other days, to us only perhaps a little more sad.

It was about ten o'clock in the evening, and mother was leaning wearily on the counter, looking absently at its contents with thoughts far away, as anyone could see. Fred was holding the baby, who insisted upon keeping wide awake and staring around with his big blue eyes.

Jimmy and I were saying that we wished Christmas would come every week, if only the pennies would come, too, when all of a sudden as I turned toward the window, I saw father's face close to the glass, looking in at us. I was scared and gave a little scream, at which mother looked up, as he

opened the door and came in.

We all shrank back a little, for sometimes he was very cross, and would strike us children when he came home, but somehow this time he didn't act as if he would, and walked right up to mother, took her by the arm and led her into the back room.

They were gone a long time, so long that Jimmy and I began to get tired, and as no more customers came in, he put up the shutters over our window and locked the door.

Baby had gone to sleep, so I took him from little Fred, who was nodding himself, and carried him into the room where mother and father were. Think how surprised I was when I saw mother looking so happy, with bright tears in her eyes, while father sat with his arms around her, looking very quiet, yet so proud and contented, too, and before them on the table, lay a roll of bills which I was sure father must have brought.

And so with things fair off and strange I do not care to cope, But look in memory's face and learn What largest I may hope.

Another year of setting suns, Of stars by night revealed, Of springing grass, of tender buds By Winter's snow concealed.

Another year of Summer's glow, Of Autumn's gold and brown, Of waving fields and ruddy fruit The branches weighing down.

Another year of happy work, That better is than play;

Of simple cares, and love that grows

More sweet from day to day.

Another year of baby mirth And childhood's blessed ways,

Of thinker's thought and prophet's

dream,

And poet's tender lays.

Another year at beauty's feast At every moment spread,

Of silent hours when grow distinct

The voices of the dead.

Another year to follow hard Where better souls have trod;

Another year of life's delight,

Another year of God.

Another Year.

BY JOHN W. CHADWICK.

That this shall be a better year Than any passed away, I dare not at its open door To wish, or hope, or pray.

Not that the years already gone Were wearisome and lone; That so with hope too long deferred My heart has timid grown.

They were gone a long time, so long that Jimmy and I began to get tired, and as no more customers came in, he put up the shutters over our window and locked the door.

Baby had gone to sleep, so I took him from little Fred, who was nodding himself, and carried him into the room where mother and father were. Think how surprised I was when I saw mother looking so happy, with bright tears in her eyes, while father sat with his arms around her, looking very quiet, yet so proud and contented, too, and before them on the table, lay a roll of bills which I was sure father must have brought.

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STEEPED IN BLOOD.

A Texan Murderer who has Killed Twenty-six Men.

Correspondent St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. GALVESTON, TEXAS, November 25.—A century hence, when Texas and the vast territory of the great New West shall have acquired a teeming population and a civilization approaching the European standard, the lives of such men and murderers as John Wesley Hardin will furnish the theme for enterprising novelists and ambitious writers of romance. Few in the West or Southwest but have heard of a noted desperado and assassin whose deeds of murder and blood have rendered his name notorious throughout Texas, and mark him as peculiarly suited as the type of the bona fide Texas assassin and cutthroat. True it is, however, that if the number of murders, rather than their atrocity, is to be the standard of excellence of crime, then Bill Longley—whose history was given in the "Globe-Democrat" some time since—surpasses Hardin, but he is the only Texas bandit that does so. Longley killed and murdered thirty-two men in cold blood, but Hardin boasts of but twenty-six assassinations. Therefore Longley, now under sentence of death in Galveston jail, is said to look upon his brother desperado, who occupies a cell in the Austin jail, with perfect contempt.

Hardin is a lady at last—she

was ever that—but I mean she

dresses like one, and father says

she grows handsome and young

every day.

Jimmy is going to college next

year, and they say he will make a

fine scholar. Ned is a clerk in a

large dry-goods house, and the

large is a big boy who whistles and

flies kites, and races around in his

boots just as Ned used to ten years

ago.

Mother and I are very busy

preparing for our Christmas tree.

As I watch her happy face, from which

the traces of care have disappeared,

my mind reverts to that day on

which began for us a reign of

peace and good will, and in remembrance of which our hearts ascribe

"Glory to God in the Highest."

An Oakland, Cal., man bought a

mile for \$140, and after trying for

two days to put his harness on, using

the second-story window as a base of

operations, he finally sold him to the

city authorities for \$14. The city

will use him to suppress riots—it esti-

mates that to put him right end fore-

most at a riot, he will equal two Gat-

ling guns.

An Irish clergyman once broke off

the thread of his discourse, and thus

addressed the congregation: "My dear

brethren, let me tell you that I am

just half through my sermon; but as

RENO WEEKLY GAZETTE.

Katie's Wants.

BY MARY M. TAPPAN.

Me want Christmas tree,
Yes, me do;
Want an orange on it,
Lots of candy, too.

Want some new dishes,
Want a red pair,
Want a rocking horse
With a very long tail.

Want a little watch
That says, "Tick, tick!"
Want a new dolly,
'Cause Victoria's sick.

Want so many things
Don't know what to do;
Want a little sister,
Little brother, too.

Won't you buy 'em, mamma?
Tell me why you won't?
Want to go to bed?
No, me don't.
—Providence Journal.

CURIOSITIES OF THE ENGLISH COURTS.

Impostures more successful in their objects, if not more famous than the Tichborne case, were being practiced in England during the period when the most interminable trial of Orton, the Wapping butcher, was going on. From several singular cases which we propose to recount, it would appear that superstition and credulity are not less rife among English than among French rustics, and that the latter, in crediting the miracles of our Lady of Lourdes and of the footless girl, are rivaled by the British yeomanry who become the victims of quacks and witchery.

In the diary of the same Orton, otherwise Tichborne, of whom we have spoken, was found a somewhat remarkable maxim, a child, no doubt, of the burly claimant's own brain. It was as follows, couched in rude but pregnant language: "Some has plenty money no brains; some has plenty brains no money; i think them as has plenty money no brains was made for them as has plenty brains no money."

It was a principle upon which this great man himself diligently acted, and which all impostors, before and after him, carry out. Knavery dupes credulity the world over; nor does the constant exposure of the one have the least effect on opening the eyes of and curing the other.

A curious drama of the knave versus fool sort, was enacted at the pleasant seaside town of Hull, England, not long ago.

Mr. Henry Jackson, a person of imposing presence and glittering eye, had served in the British army, and had, after leaving it, held the dignity of drum major in the Hull Rifle Volunteers. But he had wearied of war and mock war, and had made up his mind that his true mission was rather to cure than create physical ills in man. So he had retired from the drum-majorship, had fitted up sombre and mysterious looking apartment, and had announced to ailing humanity that, by strange gifts and stranger medicaments, he was ready to assuage its pains and forever banish its imperfections. Mr. Henry Jackson was in the height of success and reputation when a lusty young farmer, who was for the moment out of health, hearing of the great healer's wonderful cures, repaired to him in all child-like confidence.

This rural gentleman, however, after passing through an amazing variety of treatment, and spending to no purpose, several hundred pounds, at last awoke to the truth, and had Mr. Henry Jackson indicted at Borough Sessions for obtaining money on false pretenses.

The tale unfolded by the duped Dickett, the treatment he underwent, the wonderful medicines he took of, the golden promises made to him, were a revelation.

"Professor" Jackson had first told him to blow through a tube into a glass of water, whereupon the water turned immediately like milk. The professor seized the rustic by the arm, and conjured him to lose no time in saying his prayers, for he would not live over two months. Then began the selling of innumerable bottles of "Indian remedy," which gradually made the water turn less milky. Yet poor Dickett was far from being cured, and had yet a hard medicinal road to travel. First he bought a box of stuff said to have come from India, for which he paid three pounds ten, with five shillings extra for expressage from Calcutta. Then he was told by the professor that the great Indian balsam merchant of whom he had obtained his medicines had just died, at the good age of one hundred and seventy, and that he (the professor) had been lucky enough to obtain the manna and balsams of the aged patriarch. The manna, Dickett was assured, was that which the Israelites used in the wilderness, and that very little of it would keep a person alive many days. For a box of this Dickett gladly paid fifty-one pounds. An analysis having been made of this costly and biblical food, it was found to consist of about six penniesworth of citrate of magnesia; the "elixir of life" turned out to be simply so much colored water, and the precious ointment was composed of ordinary butter!

The curious remedies and imposing presence of Mr. Henry Jackson, irresistably remind us of other and less prosaic days when the dispensers of wonderful Oriental balsams were wont to ply their mystic professions undisturbed by the minions of the law. There are old persons still living who can remember a quaint old fellow, who called himself the "County Palatine," who used to harangue the crowd eloquently from a box in Convent-Garden Market, with a negro servant arrayed in gorgeous livery by his side, standing ready to hand him the balsams and elixirs, which were eagerly demanded by his credulous auditors. The fame of the celebrated Joseph Balsamo, immortalized in the history of the "Diamond Necklace," and as Cagliostro in Dumas' "Diary of a Physician," is not yet dim. He had gloomy rooms in Knightsbridge, and there dispensed to thousands of the Mayfair fashionables "the Egyptian pill of life." It is curious that Balsamo, who plied his trade undisturbed in London, was arrested in Rome, not as a quack, but for spirit-rapping.

An imposture of a more romantic sort was recently exposed in one of the London courts. The perpetrator was an elderly gentleman, aged seventy-five, with glossy white hair and trim side-whiskers, a very noble and patrician air, dressed with the nicest precision, and with a courtly manner which almost compelled respect. He claimed aristocracy of birth, and although he had several aliases, they were high sounding ones. His name might be Seymour, or it might be Cavendish; justice might take its choice. This prepossessing personage was charged with inveigling foolish young women into matrimony, and swindling them out of whatever money and jewelry of theirs he could lay his hands on. Never was a more remarkable career of imposture and pretense betrayed in a court of justice than that of Mr. Seymour, alias Cavendish. He was, in truth a very old fox indeed; but, as the English adage has it, "the old fox gets fat upon geese, but he comes to the Skinner at last;" and the venerable swindler of no less than fifty-six years found a limit to his "fourberries" at last within the walls of Dartmoor Prison.

It transpired that this patrician-looking person was convicted of fraud in France as long ago as the year 1819, when Louis XVIII was reigning, and but a short four years after Waterloo. He seems to have carried on his operations indiscriminately in all countries; for nine years after he was sentenced to ten years penal servitude in Brabant. While residing in Belgium, where he had managed to procure the professorship of languages in a Jesuit college, a demand for his extradition came from France, and he was sentenced to fifteen years more. But the assurance of the accomplished villain stood him in good stead; and, after being securely lodged in a French jail, he induced the jailor to believe that he was the Duke of Devonshire, and bribed him to let him escape from prison in a woman's attire. His principal offenses seem to have been swindling under high-sounding names, varied by an occasional marriage, which he affected with charming indifference to the fact that he was very much married already. At one time he gave himself out as the son of the Duke of Wellington; and here and there he represented himself as the scion of divers noble families. Twice within the past five years he has been convicted in Belgium, once for swindling and once for defrauding the proprietor of a Brussels hotel by forged letters of credit.

His latest exploit was of a piece with the rest, only rather more flavored by romance; although, for the matter of that, his whole career has been a long romance of craft and crime. It appears that one Anne Elizabeth Pugg advertised, very innocently, for situation as a lady's companion. To this advertisement Mr. Henry Seymour rendered a quick response. He was a gentleman, he said, of wealth and aristocratic family, and desirous of engaging a housekeeper to preside over his rural villa in Italy. The confiding Miss Pugg easily swallowed the bait. It was so much better an offer than she had hoped for! She could live in ease, and on a good salary, beneath the sunny skies and in the balmy breezes of the fair southern land! She met Mr. Seymour and was delighted with him. He was so gracious, so patrician! The old rascal lavished all his arts upon the trusting young woman; and anon began to touch upon the tenderest of subjects. Miss Pugg was won over, and knew it; after all Mr. Seymour had good taste, and was so delightful, so irreducible an old gentleman! He told her that he could lay a splendid fortune at her feet, and that, as he would not probably live long, at his death she might make a marriage with a younger man, and have all his wealth to enjoy with her second spouse. With Miss Pugg's maiden aunt he was not less successful. He was prodigal of his blandishments on this lady, and begged her to be the trustee of the magnificent settlement he intended to make upon her niece. He handed her a package of papers, purporting to be trust deeds; they were afterward examined, and found to be a bundle of old copies of the London "Times." After a month's brief and ardent courtship, Anne Elizabeth promised to be his, and soon after they were married, the happy bridegroom signing himself on the register as "Richard Henry Conway Seymour."

But poor Miss Pugg's bliss was not long lasting. In the early days of the honeymoon the large fortune vanished into air. Then the bridegroom began to spend the slender earnings which the confiding bride had intrusted him to keep for her. He treated her kindly, however, and never came home tipsy; and she delighted in his erudite and polished conversation. The poor woman would, perhaps, have clung to him to this day had it not been that, one bright morning, he was rather earnestly called for by the police. He had been at some of his old swindling tricks, and was captured before Anne Elizabeth's own eyes. Then the horrible truth came out that he had another wife, and that there was some reason to believe that there was an indefinite number of Mrs. Seymours scattered about the globe. At least it was proved that he was married at Southampton in 1861, to one Althea Thomas, which Althea was still alive, and mourning her faithless lord.

Such character as this is certainly worthy of being called, as Coleridge says, "a psychological study." He was evidently a man of liberal education and fine social accomplishments. He had a clear head and active intellect, capable of cunningly combining intricate schemes and carrying them out with cool precision and skill. Of the ordinary vices of the adventurous villain he seems to have been quite free. He never ate or drank to excess; was not, as far as could be learned, an "habitué" of Baden or Monaco, or of any other of the great gambling centres; his language was always scrupulously proper and elegant; his attire faultless; his manners were at once gracious and dignified. He seems to have pursued a career of conscienceless fraud for a period of nearly sixty years, for the mere love of mischief; and at three score and fifteen, found delight in duping a young woman for the sake of the few pounds she had been able to collect by hard and honest labor. Were he to write, his adventures during that long half century what a tale it would be!—[Appleton's Journal.]

A dispatch was lately received by the New York Bank from officials of a prominent Western city, requesting the temporary loan of \$100,000, to be secured by revenue bonds, in anticipation of receipts from taxes. The answer returned was, "We refuse to make any loans of currency pending the agitation over the Silver bill. We will make loans in gold at six per cent."

A Bearded Woman.

In the early part of July, Mr. Jesse Hinks, a farmer on Main street, near the Brewer Brick Company works, in Brewer, was called upon by a good-looking young man who desired to assist in baying. Mr. Hinks engaged the person, and Charles Works, as he gave his name, commenced to do all the work of a common laborer on the farm. Haying was in operation, and he took hold with readiness, and was a thorough and efficient farm hand. After remaining with Mr. Hinks till the busy season was over, about a month, and being out of work, he went to Orrington, where he was engaged board with Mr. Lewis Bolton, about a mile below Orrington Corner. He remained there some little time, and about the first week in September was taken sick.

Several physicians were called at different times during the sickness, and in two or three weeks the sick person was up and around all right. He told the doctors who had been to the trouble of visiting him that he had a brother, a physician in Aroostook county, who owed him some \$300. He had a friend in Bangor, however, who would settle the bill. The gentleman, when seen, told them something that let a strange light on the affair. The aforesaid Charles Works, although the semblance of a man, was, in reality, a woman. This soon spread, and the person of whom a feminine pronoun must now be used, soon found herself the subject of much gossip. The surprise was very great, and many could not believe the report, but various suspicious things were taken into account, and last week it became a settled fact that she was a woman, and she acknowledged it after some time. She had, however, succeeded in disguising herself perfectly, and none mistrusted that she was other than a man. She wore men's clothing and assumed most of the habits of young men. She smoked and chewed with the rest of them, and Manley Rankin, the wielder of the shears in Brewer, has shaved her several times. She has been around with the boys most of the time, and spent one week on the blueberry plains with them. On all these occasions no incident occurred which would lead anyone to suppose that she was other than her dress indicated.

She is spoken of as a person of a free, open countenance, possessing by no means coarse or masculine features, and is of dark complexion, wearing her hair, which is curly, cut close. Nothing but down grew on her face, but since being shaved the skin has become rough and the growth of hair encouraged. She has been in company considerably during the season, and has seemed to be much inclined to flirt with the girls, thus inducing the jealousy of some young fellows.

The reason given by her for her strange conduct is that her mother, who, according to the girl's report, lives in Dixmont, told her, as her father was dead, they would have to look to her for support, and thinking she could get better wages by assuming the garb of a man she did see. She is about twenty years of age, stout and strong, and as a farm laborer gave good satisfaction to her employer. Saturday night she left Orrington without telling where she was going.—[Bangor, (Me.) Commercial.]

The Black Jack Mine.

The Bonanza of Florida Mountain.

Florida Mountain prospects are still of the most cheering character, and the Black Jack ledge is developing into an immense and wonderful bonanza. The shaft has been sunk to the depth of a little more than one hundred feet, and as it gets deeper the gold becomes more abundant in the pay streak. The ledge is growing stronger as the work progresses, and the vein is steadily improving. There never was a mine opened up anywhere in Owyhee that seems to have such promising prospects as the Black Jack. It looks as if there was a mine in that vicinity at last that would be instrumental in bringing this section of the country to the front again, and we wouldn't be surprised if it would surpass the Golden Chariot in its most palmy and productive times. Two of the mills in camp are now running on Black Jack rock, and it is said that negotiations are pending for the purchase of the Elmwood mill. Several teams are engaged in hauling quartz to the mill, a good deal of which will yield up into the hundreds. The force of workmen will be largely increased at the mine soon, which, with the prospects of better hauling, will enable the owners before mid-winter to set every mill in camp at work crushing.

Governor Williams reproved some ladies who called upon him for Christmas donations for the poor, because they wore fine clothes. That reminds us of the church deacon who sings "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" so loudly that he cannot hear the stealthy tread of he who bears the contribution box.

The New York Tribune says: "A patent fact in the present political situation is that the Republican party is not only stronger to-day than at any time since the inauguration of President Hayes, but stronger than its most sanguine friends could have hoped six months ago."

The Miser.

Why so chary of a kiss?
Think you it is hard to miss
One sweet truant less or more?
Foolish miser, not to know
Where one is plucked two others grow!
Peculiar come soft upon me;
But secret upon wise lending.
Yet how canst thou miser be?
When Nature wastes its wealth on thee.
How can lips with honey stored
Love's painted butterflies stored?
Wandering, forgetful,
No misty human bird to kill
But secret that thy be that knows.
To bless the source whence bounty flows.
Frolic, maiden, fair and young.
Why youth's beauty dost thou wrong?
Youth too apt its wings to try.
Think you, when fond youth is gone,
Beauty lingers long alone?
May be he be not wise,
Hast the strength to be wise.
Prudent maiden, ah, remember,
Kisses grow not in December.
Grant me beauty, then just one,
Ere you cloud uncloud the sun.
Look, who knows if it were done?

English Etiquette.

It is said that when General Grant was in London recently, and went to dinner at the Prince of Wales', he was obliged to go out to the table behind the titled nobility. English etiquette, it is declared, requires that an untitled foreigner, however eminent, should give precedence, as it is called, to Englishmen of rank.

Whether this is true or not, it is certain that etiquette is carried to a great extreme in England, as in other European countries. The structure of society is such that men and women of rank think it of importance that they should be formally honored wherever they may be, not only before those who are without rank but those persons who hold rank inferior to their own.

This etiquette runs through nearly all phases and even nearly all grades of English society; in the private mansion, in receptions at court, in the army and navy, in official and diplomatic circles, and also to some extent among the mercantile and middle classes.

At a dinner-party, for instance, the hostess on repairing to the table always claims the arm of the guest of the highest in rank present. A member of the royal family always comes first; then a Duke, a Marquis, an Earl and so on. The rest of the guests go out in the order of their rank, the one of the lowest rank going out last.

This rigid rule is, however, sometimes relaxed in favor of a guest in whose special honor the dinner may be given. In such cases the hostess leads this guest out, even before persons of a higher rank than himself; and, however it may have been at the Prince of Wales', it is probable that Gen. Grant was usually accorded this honor when he went as the guest of an English house.

There is an official table which decides the precedence of each of the Royal family, the nobility and the great officers of State; and this table determines how the company shall be placed on all public occasions, and in what order they shall walk or drive in processions and stage pageants.

According to this "table of precedence," the Sovereign comes first; then all her sons in order of birth; then all her daughters in the same order; then her grand-children in the same order; finally her uncles, aunts and cousins. After the royal family the Archbishop of Canterbury holds the highest rank of precedence; then the Lord High Chancellor; then the Archbishop of York; then Dukes; then Marquises, and so on. Etiquette enjoins many formal customs on the guest. It requires, for example, that no one shall sit in presence of the Queen while she is standing, or remain covered where she is. There is only one exception to the latter rule. There is an Irish Lord, who, because of some deed of an ancestor calling forth royal gratitude, inherits the privilege to keep his hat on in presence of royalty.

No one, also, must address the Queen until she speaks to him or her first.

A lady of rank who goes shopping in London will never allow herself to be seen carrying a parcel from the shop to the carriage. This is always done by the shop keeper, who crosses the pavement, head bare, and deposits the parcel. No lady of rank carries her prayer-book to church. Her footman goes before her with it, and opens and closes the pew door.

These are but examples of minute things in which etiquette imposes its law. A breach of any of the rules of etiquette, a forgetfulness what to wear or how to act at the proper moment is regarded by English society as a very grave offense.

So despotic are the laws of etiquette in high European society that often the peace of Nations has been imperiled by a neglect to treat a Prince, a nobleman or an Ambassador with the required formality. There was serious trouble in the English royal family when the Duchess of Edinburgh, the daughter of the Czar, went to live among them, and insisted on "taking precedence" of the Princess of Wales. According to the English rule of etiquette she was obliged not to do so; but she insisted that the daughter of a Russian Emperor ought to walk before the daughter of the King of Denmark.

An amusing story is told of a certain King of Spain, who was one day discovered by somebody to be on fire. This somebody had no right to touch the King. So he hastened to the chamberlain, and the chamberlain to the steward, and the steward to the groom of the bedchamber, whose duty it was to take care of the royal person. While these formalities of etiquette were being gone through with, however, the poor King burned up.—*Youth's Companion.*

BOGARDUS TO ECLIPSE PREVIOUS FEATS.—New York Dec. 23.—On Jan. 3d, Captain A. S. Bogardus, champion wing shot of the world, will essay the task of breaking 5,000 glass balls in 500 consecutive minutes at Gilmore's Garden. This will be a marvelous display of skill and endurance. There is \$2,500 staked on the result.

The rector of the Episcopal Church at Corpus Christi, Texas, opened the Bible a few Sundays ago in his pulpit, and, much to the surprise of the congregation, a eucalyptus hand tumbled out.

Pro lecture at the prelect animal of Cam now ge by what was no vestig the ear remain life cal speaker non-me from the tion of existed early S but yet red san 000,000 we find Fish are their ap erous size an waters. air. V in profit of some birds an then the and riv walked on less Icthyo circled have not through nor can his lect which w reader. review is ed life, is illustrat shallow listeners stillness ly pictur our gl islands old earth youth in man, wh of age in dress, st the peer all. Ma he lives. mand. inspectio message to his so NEEDS Chronicl west bouing at the night, so the air b covered a the dam When the was got r ing the found to brakes. been disc panes of offering

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History of Life.

Professor Gunning gave his second lecture night before last to a fair house at the Methodist Church. After a few prefatory remarks he rapidly traced animal life from the Laurentian rocks of Canada to the limestone formation now going on in Florida. It was held by geologists ten years ago that during what they term the Azoic period there was no form of life. More recent investigation proves, however, that in the earliest rocks appear the fossilized remains of a very low type of animal life called "The Life Dawn." The speaker clearly described this peculiar non-membered animal and calculated from the probable time of the formation of these rocks primeval that it had existed 400,000,000 years. In the early Silurian rocks we find a higher but yet unbrained animal life. In this red sandstone this life existed for 40,000,000 years. Later in the Devonian we find still higher and more varied life. Fish are abundant and reptiles make their appearance, but in the Carboniferous period animals of prodigious size and vast in numbers fill the waters, cover the land and cloud the air. Vegetable and animal life exist in profusion. He gave a description of some of those huge lizards, reptilian birds and fish a la Batracian. It was then that along the large inland seas and rivers, that beside each other walked the solemn plesiosaurs, and on less romantic life fed the festive Ichthyosaurus, while above flew and circled the cheerful Pterodactyl. We have not the space to follow the lecturer through the various succeeding ages, nor can we by a meagre outline of his lecture, give that report of it which would prove of interest to the reader. Step by step, he passed in review those grand outlines of evolution, showing the changes in climate; illustrating the erosive action of atmospheric agency; sailed down wide shallow rivers, and led his rapt listeners into the solemn but imposing stillness of antiquated caves and vividly pictured to us primeval man and his associate troglodytes. On our globe and in the oceanic islands we find rude life. All over old earth we find traces of age and youth in animal and plant life, but man, while himself bearing the impress of age in his language, customs and dress, stands, by his mental prowess, the peer of all else save the Author of all. Matchless he stands, immortal he lives. The elements are at his command. The deep sea is open for his inspection. The lightning bears his message and the spheres chant music to his soul.

Anti-Chinese.

The farmers of Big Meadows have resolved against the Chinese as follows and the *Silver State* publishes:

WHEREAS, It is our opinion that the time has arrived when it has become the duty of every American citizen to disown the presence of the Chinese amongst us, and to give his aid and sympathy to the party who favors his expulsion from the country, and who will labor to procure protection for the laboring and producing classes; therefore

Resolved, That we, the business men of Big Meadows give our aid and sympathy to the labor and anti-Chinese party of the Pacific coast.

Resolved, That we, with a view to benefit the interests of the country at large, and this community in particular, and to aid in the permanent removal of the Chinaman from our coast, shall not employ any of them to do any work at any price.

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A Russian official dispatch states that the steamer *Russland*, commanded by Adjutant Baronoff, has returned to Sebastopol from a cruise in the Bosphorus, bringing as a prize the Turkish transport steamer *Mossina*, with 700 Turkish troops on board.

The whaling season has just commenced in Monterey, but they have not caught but one. We know of other places where the whaling season ought to have commenced long ago.

The huge granite monolith which supports the equestrian statue of Peter the Great at St. Petersburg, Russia, was rolled from Finland on cannon balls.

The Sacramento Bee comes out in a handsome holiday paper; double sheet illustrated. Bright and readable is the Bee.

Twenty-three persons were dangerously poisoned at Whitehaven, Pa., by eating liver pudding which had been boiled in copper kettles.

Matt Parrott, the gunsmith, has just received a number of fine guns and pistols of the latest patterns.

Georgians ridicule the statement that the new party movement is a result of Hayes' policy.

The French Government has requested Don Carlos to leave France and he has started for the frontier.

The National Gold Medal was awarded to Bradley & Rulofson for the best Photographs in the United States, and the Vienna Medal for the best in the world.

429 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

One Case of Leef's California Yeast will make over ten loaves of Bread.

MARRIED.

PHILLIPS—CLARKE—In Sacramento, December 25th, by the Rev. H. H. Rice, W. D. Phillips to Miss Jennie Clarke, both of Reno.

THOMPSON—HALLER—In Verdi, December 25th, by the Rev. Mr. Wadsworth, to Miss Annie Haller, of Verdi.

JORDAN—FOLEY—In Reno, December 24th, by Father Pettit. Carl Jordan to Miss Katie J. Foley, both of Steamboat.

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FALL AND WINTER

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Office in McFarlin's building, Sierra Street, north of the Railroad.

AGENTS:
GEO. M. MOTTE, in our only authorized Agent at Sacramento. He is empowered to make contracts, collect and receipt for all advertisements from that place, published in the Daily or Weekly GAZETTE.

L. P. FISHER, 21 Merchants' Exchange, is duly authorized to act as our agent in San Francisco.

Friday, December 28th, 1877.

The Merry Christmas-Tide.

We have always delighted in the thoughts of the Christmas season, the chimneys seem merrier at that time than at others, friendly voices are sweeter music, and even the staid church bells, calling to the Christmas tree, are noisy with the joyful tidings of "peace and good will to earth." It pleases us to think that on Tuesday the world did go merry-making; that the love and charity which is in man received fresh renewal and consecration; that the ties which make men love and cherish were strengthened and multiplied. It pleases us to think that men and women have cherished these kindly traditions since first the "Yule Feast" was observed and the "Yule log" burned on Christmas Eve. We have a genuine reverence for good Saint Nicholas, or Santa Claus, at whose coming little hearts are all aglow with happiness and anticipation of pleasure. It is a pleasant thought that millions of little stockings were hung up Monday night, because we know that millions of kind fathers and mothers had filled them with the notions and goodies which only come with Santa Claus.

Yes, surely, this Christmas-tide is full of goodness—there's melody in every laugh, sunshine in each smile, and charity in all hearts. One may see the Englishman quaffing the nut-brown beverage from his *wassail-bowl* and singing joyfully,

"The merry bowle,
The merry brown bowle,
As it goes round about a
Full
Shal
Let the world say what it will,
And drink your all out-a."

And his honest enthusiasm seems an inspiration from the spirit of good fellowship. He may visit Italy and there see the immortal works of genius in art commemorating the holy Christ mas birth. In fair Venice he will notice the statues of angels, the faces of Madonnas which have looked down upon numberless Christmas trees since master hands created them. And as the happy people pass and repass the joyful Christmas anthem fills the Cathedral of St. Mark, and the golden angel upon San Giorgio seems to reflect to earth the peaceful light of good will to all. In Germany and Scandanavia the visitor might witness the same troupes of happy ones, hear the same cheery Christmas carols in verse and music, and sit 'neath the beautiful Christmas tree, where cheerful lights reveal in each case the home circle and its friends dancing merrily to the burden,

"Now is Christmas come,
And Christmas time will last till Easter."

In our own fair land the pride of home and friends never is so sweet as at Yule tide. Here are all the children so full of happiness that their little bodies are all to small to contain it. Here are the mothers and fathers relating to the little ones quaint stories of Elfland, of Santa Claus, Kris Kringle and the rest, while the good house-wife prepares the mince pies smoking hot, the plum pudding, or the Spring pig who has fared richly in consequence of his Christmas destiny. Yes, surely one may be forgiven for reviewing such customs once in the year, but there is another thought also worthy of attention: When you brew the Christmas beverage and lift the *wassail bowl* to your lips there are always homes without cheer and children without happiness near you. As you entered the church to hear the praise and swelling anthem there was a bazaar at the door beseeching alms, and as you stir the fire and give yourselves over to merry-making upon the sacred Christmas Eve don't forget the home-

—*Elko Independent*.

The *Independent* misquotes us. We did not say that the petition was to come from Washoe solely.

ANNUAL SETTLEMENT.—The Treasurers of the several counties of this State are now making their yearly settlement with State Treasurer Schooling. So far the following counties have been heard from, and after deducting expenses for shipment of funds etc., the amounts set opposite to their respective names are credited to them: Lyon county. \$12,465.34 Humboldt county. 19,423.17 Lander county. 13,225.73 Eureka county. 31,109.14 Douglas county. 8,228.99 Ormsby county. 22,168.98 Lincoln county. 7,594.35

—*Carson Appeal*.

England has accumulated vast military stores at Gibraltar and Malta.

The Ward *Reflex* reports a rich strike in the Pleiades mine.

less ones within sound of your voice. Go to the Christmas tree, by all means, remember your own little ones, but at least give a word of consolation and kindness to the homeless one, whom you may, perchance, meet in your journey, or who may stand without, looking from misery upon a scene of comfort and plenty.

State Tax.

Elsewhere in this issue the reader will find some items in regard to the annual settlement between the counties and State Treasurer Schooling. The amounts of Washoe and Storey counties do not appear therein. Washoe has paid something like \$34,000 as her portion of the tax, this establishing her claim to rank as the second county in the State. We pass this point however, to call attention to another fact. The rate of taxation this year has been very hard to bear, and owing mainly to the fact that the State levy was not reduced by the Legislature. The cause of such failure is directly traceable to the advocates of the compromise bill. These men urged that the rate could not be reduced because the bullion tax could not be collected, and hence that full amount of property tax would be required to run the government. They argued with some plausibility that the rate could be reduced if the compromise passed, but never admitted that it could be reduced anyway, owing to the certainty of collecting the bullion tax. The Legislature, however, maintained its ground, and only failed of its duty in being unable to reduce the State levy, owing to the power of the compromisers. The case stood in this way. No power could prevent a speedy collection of the entire bullion tax, hence the levy could easily have been reduced. But the advocates of compromise had enough votes to prevent any reduction of the State rate, and by holding this over the Legislature sought to enforce favor for the compromise. We hope that the blame in this case will be awarded where it belongs—to the compromisers, as we believe they will make the same attempt another session.

Beecher lately described very minutely a certain kind of hell, and said he didn't want to go to that one. Beecher was always critical, but we never contemplated that degree of ingenuity which could graduate final condemnation and offer assorted purgatories to needy mankind. It would be very interesting to know the exact intensity of heat and brimstone which Henry, as the religious agent of Plymouth Church, will choose for his flock. They pay him well for canvassing the subject, any way.

Three men lately stole \$70,000 from a mail car between Calais and Dover. They were afterwards detected and brought to trial. The defense set up that the felony was committed in France. The prosecution claimed that the conversion of the securities in London constituted a felony, but the judge thought his duty demanded an acquittal, which he accordingly granted. The parties cannot be delivered to France because the word larceny does not occur in the treaty, and so it ends.

The Reno *Gazette* states that there will be a counter petition to Congress, from Washoe county remonstrating against the Government taking back from the C. P. R. R. Co. their unsold lands. It seems that there is less subserviency to the railroad interest in that county than in most others along the line of the road.—*Elko Independent*.

The *Independent* misquotes us. We did not say that the petition was to come from Washoe solely.

ANNUAL SETTLEMENT.—The Treasurers of the several counties of this State are now making their yearly settlement with State Treasurer Schooling. So far the following counties have been heard from, and after deducting expenses for shipment of funds etc., the amounts set opposite to their respective names are credited to them: Lyon county. \$12,465.34 Humboldt county. 19,423.17 Lander county. 13,225.73 Eureka county. 31,109.14 Douglas county. 8,228.99 Ormsby county. 22,168.98 Lincoln county. 7,594.35

—*Carson Appeal*.

England has accumulated vast military stores at Gibraltar and Malta.

The Ward *Reflex* reports a rich strike in the Pleiades mine.

"Little Evarts."

We like to see a conscientious outspoken man, and the louder he speaks, the better we like it so he stands upon honest and reasonable ground. But we confess to a weak stomach, when we hear some of our neighbors calling the present Secretary of State "Little Evarts." They may differ with his political tenets, and we do not object, but we earnestly beseech these men not to destroy Evarts character as a man of learning and wonderful ability. Let us remind them that difference of opinion does not permit intolerance, and that a man with Evarts record must have a modicum of the common sense which the Conkling men possess in such a remarkable degree. Let us claim for the nonce that the leading lawyer who successfully defended Andrew Johnson in the greatest political trial, may be allowed to average with other men. The man whom public deference chose as the representative of America before the Geneva Arbitrators, and who was admitted before Conkling, the ablest lawyer before that body, and won his case is not all a fool, nor is he wrong because he differs with Roscoe Conkling. The man whom Republicans chose to present the cause of President Hayes before the ablest men of this nation is not perhaps a traitor because he has his own opinion, and finally we submit with few misgivings that the acknowledged head of the New York bar for fifteen years past, must have nearly as good ideas of the interests of his people as the average country politician who warms his shins and mouths his country's welfare in the corner store. Let us be a little charitable, friends, to this "Little Evarts" because it may happen that he means well, and at the worst he is only unfortunate in differing with us.

A Chance for Capitalists.

The *Silver State* ever watchful of Humboldt's interests, calls attention to a valuable tract of land near Flynn's Station which can easily be irrigated and made valuable by a slight outlay. We have often said that Nevada was now offering some of the finest opportunities to capital to be found in the Union. There are large tracts of land about this place which would when reclaimed surely return a magnificent interest for every dollar invested. There is an abundant water power wasting itself daily in dashing against rocks, which should be turned into water wheels and running machinery. That water power is the Truckee River, and capital passes it by, probably because the stream is not of silver, or because water wheels can not be found ready made. There are mining districts in this State which only need the use of capital for six months to demonstrate their worth. There are numberless industries now thriving in other States, and which have never been attempted in Nevada, which would be securely and largely profitable. Why are these opportunities wasted? Why does the machinery rust in the manufacturers, and the water power run to waste? Why does the prospector give over his task, and the number of unemployed increase? Because the capitalist finds it profitable to speculate upon money rather than upon industry. There are millions of money in San Francisco banks and thousands of profitable investments waiting for this capital.

The *Bee* notices the following matters of interest in the report of Fish Commissioners:

There were caught in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and which found their way to market, 5,098,700 pounds of salmon in the year beginning Nov. 1, 1874 and ending August 1, 1875; in the following year 5,311,423 were caught, and in the next year ending August 1, 1877, 6,493,563 pounds, besides 2,000,000 pounds which they claim were taken out of season this year. The Commissioners say: "This shows a gain of more that a million of pounds in the legal catch over any year since the organization of the Commission and may be ascribed to the fact that our waters are now beginning to feel the beneficial effects of the millions of salmon hatched artificially and turned into the headwaters."

South Carolina Democrats say that Senator Patterson is a great criminal. They can convict him and not half try, but they supplement this assertion by promising that if he will resign and let a Democrat fill his place there will be no prosecution. That is the purity of our ancestors, as improved and intensified by time.

President Hayes will enlarge upon his Civil Service policy in a special message to Congress at the coming session. He does not propose to abandon any portion of his position.

SMALL TALK.

Turkey still struts, and will shortly gobble up 300,000 more men for the war.

The Elko *Independent* learns that the Navajo Company has shut down. The ore now uncovered contains sulphur and must be roasted.

The San Francisco papers say that racing in that region has degenerated into a mere scramble for "oats," owing to the jobs practiced during the present year.

Dr. E. N. Chapman, of Brooklyn, has solved an important problem. He says that whiskey is good for diphtheria. There is a great deal of diphtheria in this country.

We read of one James McCoy who has just made his fourth escape from prison, and has sentences aggregating fifty years booked against him. His life will prove useful in demonstrating the weakness of jailers.

Senator Blaine having joined hands with Conkling, now sees things through the same glasses as that gentleman. Blaine thinks the President is wrong, and the President knows that Blaine is wrong, so there's no advantage in that respect.

One of the strangest things which has been developed by current events during the past year is the certainty with which the wily detective will pass by a defaulting bank president without seeing him.

Beecher says it's easier to walk a six-inch bridge 500 feet high and pitched at an angle of 90 degrees, than to tell the truth all the time. These little experimental results when officially announced carry much weight.

J. C. Duncan, the thief, politely termed ex-bank president, has been hiding in San Francisco and the police officers are ready to swear that he has the property of invisibility. The Grand Jury does not believe it.

Every creek in California has a petition before the Legislature of that State, praying for an appropriation to improve the said streams. They all want to be navigated, and it takes money to make rivers out of sloughs. If this precedent holds good we may expect to hear from Reese river next year.

Two horse thieves had their stockings hung up lately in Bakersfield, Kern county. These gentlemen were inside their stockings and ropes were hitched about their necks. Their speeches were not reported, but there is no doubt that they declared themselves satisfied with the prospect of a better land. Murderers all go to heaven when let out of employment here, and why not horse thieves.

The Mexicans are doing a good business along the Rio Grande. They have plundered several towns and defeated the Texan rangers, and a detachment of United States troops. If the New York *Sun* had its way, the united attack of Sitting Bull's murderers, and Mexican horse thieves, would be very troublesome to our standing army.

"Little Senators."

Under date of December 23d the New York *Times* asserts that "another little Senator has been chosen in the person of James Farley." The discussion is pertinent to us because it presumes that there are other "little ones" in the Senate from the West. The *Times* goes on to say:

The election of such men as Farley of California to the United States Senate is not an encouraging sign. It is another indication of the gradual decadence of the body which now ranks Roscoe Conkling among its leaders. To be sure there have always been little men in the Senate, but there are more little men now than ever before, and the vast majority of small Senators is now reinforced by California. From all accounts it would appear that this latest accession to the Senate is an uncultured, uneducated and opinionated person, difficult to move by argument, and dangerous because of his natural ignorance and self conceit. And this is the sort of a man who will find fit companionship in the United States Senate.

Now can it be possible that Nevada has ever elected one of those Senators, and moreover, is it true that "little men" find fit companionship in the United States Senate?

President Hayes will enlarge upon his Civil Service policy in a special message to Congress at the coming session. He does not propose to abandon any portion of his position.

CONVISED.—Yesterday afternoon, one of the five tramps who were arrested for disturbing the peace and quiet of the First Ward confessed that he was a son of Osman Pasha.—*Footlight*.

They say that vigorous efforts will be made to reconcile Evarts and Conkling during the coming week. If the associated press agent would kindly let Evarts and Conkling reconcile themselves and attend to legitimate news items he would be more entertaining.

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LOCAL AFFAIRS.

GOOD NEWS.—Alvaro Evans our old townsmen, and Vice-President of the Agricultural Mining & Mechanical Society, has just returned from Chicago, and reports his experiment of shipping beef to that point a complete success. The shipment arrived in as good condition as when it left Winnemucca, and the price realized leaves no doubt in regard to the profitable nature of shipments of beef from Nevada to Illinois. The importance of this first experiment can hardly be overestimated, as it provides an outlet for the beef produced in Nevada, and renders us independent of the San Francisco market. We understand that Mr. Evans and associates have ensured a good market for the beef raised in Eastern Nevada and Idaho, and we have before published statements which show that the California stock raisers appreciate the fact that Nevada is soon to be independent of the Western market. A bright future is assured to the meat shipping industry.

ROLL OF HONOR IN VERDI.—To the courtesy of Miss Mary A. Taylor we are indebted for the following showing in regard to the young idea of Verdi. School has now adjourned for the holidays. In case the weather holds good the session will be resumed again in about two weeks; but in default of sunshine the next session will be indefinitely postponed. The following pupils are on the roll of honor: Nettie Wood, 91; Eva Odett, 90; Georgie Odett, 88; Nelly Odett, 85; Bertha Odett, 84; Louise Haller, 81; Millie Hamlin, 81; Prilla Odett, 81; Lizzie Leonhardt, 78; Olive Pashby, 78; Georgie Hamlin, 76; Jake Brown, 76; Georgie Foulks, 76; Ella Allen, 70.

AFTER SOMEBODY.—The Carson Appeal of the 21st notices the arrival of Ben Lackey in that city and predicts that he is good for many a shrimp salad and porter house steak yet. Benjamin was in Reno the other night and looked as though he was seeking work at wood chopping or some kindred occupation. Lackey was accosted on the orthodox woodman's style, and thinking that he might be laying for some one, we made no mention of his presence. Rather foxy, is Benja-min.

DELINQUENT TAXES.—The total delinquent taxes were \$2,900, one-half of which has since been paid. County Auditor Williams computes that not more than \$1,200 or \$1,500 will be handed over to the District Attorney for collection. This must be regarded as a very good showing, considering the times. We recommend delinquents to settle, as these amounts will be promptly collected. We hope the amount may be still further reduced.

DISAPPOINTED.—Said Juddles to his grown-up daughter, "What do you want for Christmas?" Said she: "Other girls have their stockings filled, and I expect the same." Said Juddles, looking at the stocking, "It would take a good sized man to fill that, and I haven't any of those at command, you will have to take something else." Exit daughter of Juddles weeping.

CORRECT.—Through the exertions of County Auditor Williams a bill was passed at the last session modifying the method of collecting poll tax. A result of this change has been the collection of 2,400 poll taxes against 1,600 in '76. This does not hurt the road fund, and when one man pays taxes all should.

GONE BELOW.—Len Savage went below again last Friday. His lungs have been weaker for some time past, and upon leaving home yesterday it was feared he would not be able to make the trip. He felt well, however, on reaching the train, and it is hoped that the change of climate will prove beneficial.

REFITTING.—Louis Dean's stable has disappeared and in its place will soon be found two stores. Louis is looking for tenants, and has one secured in a Chinaman. He prefers Caucasians however, and will wait a while.

A Chinese wash house in the western addition succumbed to the flames Monday afternoon. Our firemen responded, but to no purpose the fire-king claimed his own, and the unfortunate cleaners of soiled linen are homeless. Such is the vicissitudes of Celestial life, John is led to say, "What for."

Jottings.

Bodie is all the go on the Comstock. R. P. Chapin is busy potting roses. The poll tax collected this year will reach \$10,000.

Santa Claus will be here next Tuesday night. Hang up your stockings. James H. Borland has returned from Rye Patch.

Judge Richardson says he is out \$1 to-day and he "ain't made a cent."

We hear of several Virginians who think of spending Christmas in Reno.

The ladies were out in force last evening making purchases for the holidays.

Washoe county is second only to Storey in taxable property and support rendered to the State.

Ninety-one delinquent poll taxes in the delinquent list, of which 50 will be collected.

C. A. V. Putnam has returned to his old position as news editor of the *Enterprise*.

Mr. Geo. Mapes and Mr. Geo. Todd, stockmen from the north are in town.

One of our well to do citizens will set "Possum and sweet potatoes" before his guests on Christmas.

Louis Dean has purchased from E. H. Vance, 60 acres, and from G. Ault, 80 acres on the Truckee Meadows.

Several of our citizens are interested in Santa Fe district in Esmeralda county, and say they don't want to sell.

Master Freddy Hagerman arrived from San Francisco last Monday, and will spend his two weeks vacation with his parents.

The Lassen County Farmer intimates that it will take a long season of holidays, and blames the people for not supporting two papers.

Telegraph repairers were engaged Monday in connecting the wires of the A. & P. Telegraph Co.'s office with the Western Union Telegraph office. The latter office now has twenty-eight strands of wire.

The most tastefully trimmed meat market in town is the Star Market. Drop in and see those neatly dressed pigs, mutton chops and steaks which cannot be excelled. The fact is Schaefer understands his business.

Coasting in Virginia on Saturday and Sunday,

A State Teachers Institute will probably be held in Carson in March.

A CHRISTMAS REUNION.—Among the many firesides about which good cheer and happiness were so abundant Tuesday, we ask the pleasure of describing one. Mr. C. A. Bragg and lady, imbued with the spirit of Christmas tide, left the latch-string outside and when evening came found their modest home literally filled with sons and daughters, Kris Kringle, our special, looked through the window and counted no less than seventeen smiling faces as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bragg; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dealey of Carson with four bright little votaries of Santa Claus; Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Bacon and one little blue eyed maid; Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Bragg and little daughter; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Fulton; and Miss Saidie Bragg. Of course the feast was abundant and as the brave captain sat at the head of the table dividing the good cheer, his good lady facing him—and helping as usual—it was no ordinary happiness which shone from those two faces upon their Christmas guests. After the supper, Ben Bacon was fitted up as Santa Claus, to the especial delight of the children, and to the bewilderment of one young miss who refused a kiss because of non-acquaintance. Then they gathered around the Christmas tree, and presents for old and young were found to be numerous. One of these we mentioned is an elegant arm-chair provided for the patriarch of the little flock, and in which the brave old gentleman sat conspicuously happy, although he made a downright failure at trying to hold all of his grandchildren at once. The evening's enjoyment was worth a year of life, and we describe it because we like to see good people happy. May the day return many times, and never come without the joy.

A special train will leave Carson at 6 o'clock, Dec. 31st, to transport a select party of Carsonites to this burg. The River Side meeting.

Notes by the Way.

Surprise Valley—Items of Modoc and Roop Counties, etc.

It is quite customary on the return of a news reporter from a visit to a new section of country that he infests the readers of the paper with the results of his peregrinations. We trust however, that a brief description of the places from which we have just arrived will prove instructive if not interesting, to the many readers of the *Gazette*. More than a week ago in company with Mr. J. C. Hagerman, we started over the future mail route to Lake City, and immediate localities in Surprise Valley. This Valley with those adjoining and much of the country between Reno and Fort Bidwell, comprises a large area—valuable chiefly as a stock range, yet producing many tons of farming produce, and capable of yielding rich revenues from other staple commodities. Reno is the natural outlet of this section and our merchants do a large trade with that part of Nevada, Oregon and California. We therefore feel lively interest in these people, and though that section is sparsely settled and its inhabitants far removed from market their prosperity is also financial benefit to us, while the supplies which they are enabled to furnish us provides a mutual source of revenue.

Leaving the Truckee meadows with its superior communications, many well improved farms and comfortable homes, we enter an almost barren region of treeless mountains and long plateaus covered by the invincible sagebrush, rich of soil but unwatered. As we entered the hilly region beyond Pyramid Valley the characteristic hotel furnished an occasional relief to the monotony of our journey. A few dogs, say half a dozen, meet us a short distance from each house and at best they can invite us to tarry over night. "Tule Frank" took charge of us on the first night and did the landlord in hand some style. Frank has a 1200 acre farm and is prospering. The next point was Fish Springs, distant seventeen miles. They lend a charm to the home of Mr. Anderson, who is the only resident of the eastern part of Honey Lake Valley. The land is rich and furnishes grazing for a large number of cattle, and from a large farm Mr. Anderson raises tons of hay. A low range of hills constitute the dividing line between Honey Lake Valley and the large valley of the salt marsh. This valley contains no agricultural land and is the home of but two families, Mr. Bonham and Frank Murphy. The latter runs the Buffalo salt works, and supplies southern Oregon, northeastern California, and Roop county, Nevada, with salt. The salt in solution is pumped from salt wells and precipitated by evaporation. The works are 88 miles from Reno. From the marsh to the next valley we pass through Buffalo Canyon, a fearfully rocky gorge, bounded on either side by massive columns of basaltic rock. Hagerman became inspired and spun poetry by the yard. Our memory is treacherous, else a few stanzas of his touching compositions would be presented to the reader.

We next entered upon Duck Flat, the only precinct of Roop county. Duck Flat is not an imposing valley, but provides a home for Clarke, a stock man, and Dennis Mulquiny, the proprietor of a wayside hotel. Dennis is not beautiful, nor is his earthly home palatial, yet far from friends and a lone batch, he keeps soul and body together and lives an honest if not an inviting life. Fluctuations in the price of stocks never mar his peace, nor tales of woe or scenes of real strife disturb his evening repose. Each day alike pursues he the tenor of his way. There he in monotonous life content must stay.

Over the hill from Dennis, down a good canyon road and we are in Surprise Valley. On our right are high table mountains and long ridges, to the north sixty miles away, are low mountains, save Mt. Bidwell, which stands like a sentinel at the head of the Valley, to our left are high rugged mountains covered with snow and supporting forests of pine and other timber. From the base and even far up on the sides of these western mountains are numerous springs, some of these springs are icy cold, others even in close proximity are nearly boiling hot. Before us lay the rich beautiful Valley, sixty miles long and ten miles wide. At the lower end of the Valley lies Lower Lake, a short

distance above is found Middle Lake and still further north is Upper Lake, the largest of the three. These lakes cover about one-third of the Valley, are shallow and their waters are destitute of fish, being more or less impregnated with salt and alkali.

The Valley land at both ends of the Valley and the entire western portion of it is fine agricultural land. From one-quarter to one-third of the Valley is under cultivation, and the yield from its rich soil is equal to that of the best tillable lands of California. Mr. Wimer at Lake City, says the soil produces from thirty to forty bushels of wheat or barley. On account of the great distance to market about one-fourth of the arable land remains uncultivated. The population of the Valley is about 1500. There are eight schools in the Valley, two flour mills, four saw mills, but not a single church. The people however are not without the gospel, having the benefit of the ministerial labors of Methodist and Baptist clergy. There are four towns in the Valley viz: Eagleville, Cedarville, Lake City and Camp Bidwell. Eagleville is on Eagle Creek, has a saw mill, school house and a few farmer's residences. Cedarville, sixteen miles north, has a population of say one hundred, contains a store, saloon, two hotels, two livery stables, a school house, a flour mill, run by steam and a number of private residences. In this place we met Messrs. Cresler and Bonner who are the merchants of the place. Mr. Monchamp and Mr. Hieronymus, proprietors of the two hotels, Mr. Cannon, who accommodates the thirsty, and Mr. J. C. Jones, formerly of Reno, who attends to the cladding of men's feet and doctors debilitated soles.

Lake City, ten miles north of Cedarville, is situated in a beautiful grove of pine trees, and but for a little injudicious rivalry between it and Cedarville, would probably have been the county seat of Modoc county. The population of this town is about 125. It contains one hotel, two stores, a blacksmith and carpenter shop, a fine flour mill, school house, a public hall and theater, a saloon and the homes of many families. Here we found W. B. King, formerly of Reno, J. W. Crafty, who is now a merchant, having purchased the store and goods lately in charge of Mr. Hagerman, Mr. Adams, the mixologist, Mr. Brown, of hotel fame, Mr. Estes, the pedagogue of the burg, Smith, the Postmaster and watch mender, Thompson, who runs "the other store," Johnny Cannon, known by every one as a clever gentleman, and George Wimer, who has the best flour mill in the Valley. This mill has a capacity of 10,000 barrels per day, has excellent milling apparatus and does first class work. Mr. Wimer intends putting several thousand barrels of his flour in the Reno market next Spring and Summer.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following real estate transfers have been recorded since Dec. 10th:

B. F. Leete to James Bristol. Lot 4 in block 5, Western addition, for \$321.26.

Charles Crocker to Wm. Webster. All of fractional block D, in Reno, \$450.

L. W. Lee to A. J. Clark. Lot 5 in block H in Marsh's addition \$200.

Giovanni Pratto to Andrea Pratto and Antonio Ceresola, one-fourth of Mary's ranch, \$2000.

Peleg Brown to School District No. 9, 600 feet square for school house, \$1.

Charles Crocker to James H. Kinney, Lot No. 19, river front, \$125.

Charles Crocker to B. B. Norton, Lot 8, block 2, \$125.

NUPTIALS.—The friends of W. D. Phillips will now please put on mourning. He's gone too. There an only a few more left of us Spartans now, and it behoves us to draw closer to keep warm. We cannot but think that Phil was a little unkind in leaving so suddenly, but we will not throw stones on that account. No, on the other hand there is no measure of happiness which we do not sincerely wish for Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Phillips. May life be as generous as the courtesies which we now acknowledge.

Another Chinaman is under arrest. He is suspected of being the chap who shot the celestial, who was burned to death in the wash house, which perished by flame Monday afternoon. It is not legally certain that the Chinaman was shot, since the body was so badly burned that no traces of gun-shot wounds can be found.

The Elko Hanging.

"That's Daylight and the Last I Shall Ever See." "I Want You All to Meet Me in Heaven."

At 11:55 last Friday Sam Mills, the negro murderer who lately attempted to escape, was hung in the Court House yard at Elko. He was attended for some time by a reporter who gives the following details in regard to his last hours:

Mills attempted to conceal his real state of mind, conversed about his execution, said he had inspected the scaffold and believed it would work perfectly. His frequent remark was, "Well, this is my last night upon earth," and long drawn sighs showed that the thought found no peaceful echo in his breast. He was extremely anxious about the disposition of his body, and when assured that the surgeon would not get it, said, "Then at this time to-morrow night I shall be up there on the hill. I do not fear death, and if I feel sure that my sins were forgiven I would want to die, for I am tired of this world."

Every few minutes he would sing a line or two of the familiar hymn:

"Come to Jesus."

"Come to Jesus just now."

At times he affected a light heart and essayed the witty role, furnishing the laughter which he thought appropriate to his own jokes. But these spells were very short; they would invariably end in sighs and allusions to to-morrow's "horrid work." At times he sat silent and in deep reflection. After one of these he repeated aloud the following lines:

"How oft I bear a burden lies;
I can't pronounce Thee just and wise.
If my poor soul is sent to hell,
The righteous Lord approves it well."

"That," he feelingly remarked, "is my old mother's favorite hymn, and I often heard her sing it when I was a boy. May God pity her. She will never see that boy again."

Mills frequently had recourse to prayer and always said he felt better and would be forgiven, and did not fear death. At the approach of dawn he started up eagerly, and as the first gray light reached his gloomy cell explained:

"That's daylight coming now, and the last I shall ever see. I did not sleep last night, but I will take a good long sleep in heaven to-night."

At 10 o'clock the people gathered about the jail and soon after Rev. Robert McCullock, visited Mills in his cell. Sheriff Lietz read the death warrant to Mills at 11:45, and was politely thanked by the doomed man. The murderer then shook hands with all the prisoners, saying as he did so:

"Boys, good, by one and all. Don't any of you ever come to my end. I want you all to meet me in heaven. I love you every one."

Upon the scaffold Mills made a short speech. Mr. McCullock offered a prayer, and at 11:53 the black cap was adjusted, Mills assuring the officers that he was not afraid to die. At 11:55 Deputy Sheriff Zarchy pulled the lever, and Samuel Mills ceased to live in 7 minutes thereafter.

The ingenuity of the Chinese is not confined to embroidery, ceramics and decorative art, but extends to internal revenue. One of the latest schemes of the Celestial statesmen proposes a tax on new-born infants. The sum is ridiculously small—about ten cents—but as babies are one of the principal productions of the Celestial Empire, and the market is constantly overstocked, a handsome revenue from this source is confidently expected. The tax falls due when the infant enters the world and the happy father, without delay, steps down to the captain's office and settles its passage. Strange as it may seem, there are no deductions to account for double entry. This is not in accordance with natural equity or customs morality. The tax for twins surely ought not to exceed fifteen cents, for small jobbing lots, with the usual discount to the trade—Exchange.

ROLL OF HONOR.—The following is the roll of honor of the Reno Grammar School for the month ending Dec. 21st: Flora Northrop, 99; Julie Wintermantel, 100; Laura Marsh, 90; Dora Cantrell, 95.5; Fanny Russack, 100; Annie Stalker, 100; Josie Wintermantel, 90; Flora McKey, 99; Rebecca Prescott, 99; Emma Rhue, 99; Bertha Rhue, 98; Rose Wilcox, 98; Eddie Winfrey, 96.8; Eddie Barber, 96.4; Mack Leete, 93.5; Grant Rice, 90.8; Guy Manning, 99.2; Willie Noyes, 93.2; Benny Metcalfe, 90.4; Maurice Cohen, 95; Dick Anersmith, 97.

ORVIS RING, Principal.

Miss Mary Toombs has gone to Mills Seminary, near Oakland. She will find an excellent school at the "castle among the hills."

Bierce and the Argonaut.

Now that the Senatorial contest is decided beyond all hope of revocation, the New York *Graphic* arrives at Sacramento with an engaging portrait and prepossessing biographical sketch of Mr. Mark L. McDonald. It is a pretty picture to look at; it is good to frame and hang up. The sketch is pleasant reading, and has a permanent literary value. But the incident somehow reminds one of the arrival of the corpse a day after the funeral.

"To edit a newspaper," says the Rev. Mr. Talmage, "requires that one be a statesman, an essayist, a geographer, in fact, an encyclopedist." Yes, and when you have done so with distinguished success for the better part of a lifetime the statesman, essayist, geographer, and encyclopedist of a rival sheet will seat himself at his desk with a heavenly smile and an even pulse, and tranquilly aver that you are a brass-bound and double-riveted centennial idiot, and a roaring, ribbed John-donkey of the windy wild!

It occurs to me that a collection of photographs of "Men and Women whom We All Know" would be a most interesting adjunct to the *Argonaut*, and the persons herein specified will confer a favor by sending their counterfeit presentations without further intimation:—The singularly gifted being who, though no critic, knows what suits him. The girl who sucks the handle of her parasol and is without other visible means of support.

The attentive listener who has heard it told another way. The friend who is at some pains to recall to your memory an occasion on which you said a good thing. The friend who gives you two fingers to shake, except when he wants a small loan, and then two hands. The young buck who says blood will tell, but whose own will not if it is discreet. The man who begs to take you by the hand on learning that you wrote that splendid article in the *Pyrotechnic Magazine*, but who has unfortunately neglected to first wash his own hand. The amusing fellow who repeats the point of his anecdote after everybody has done laughing. The young lady who expects you to protest when she informs you that she does not like women. The worthy young man who does protest. The old gentleman who never felt younger in his life, sir, but whose walking stick is much worn away at the tip. The dainty young man who carefully preserves his little finger

How an Agent Repeated the History of Life Insurance.

An insurance canvasser tells the following story:
I had been visiting and working with See, a good agent in Central New York. He was full of fun and days work, with cheek like a brass log and head like a tenpenny nail. We had worked hard with scanty results. We had traveled twenty-five miles to see a man, only to learn that he had moved "out West" a month ago; we had convinced another by a hard four hours' talk that he should ensure his life, only to learn that his father and mother had died of consumption, that he had some little trouble with his lungs—"not enough to matter anything—bliss your soul, as sound a man as you will find in all this section." Of course we didn't want his money. Toward night of the fourth day we weary wended our winding way, with only five small applications for insurance, into a little town where See was well acquainted. Stopping at the doctor's office, which was on the second floor of a neat building, and open, he said: "I've got two or three good cases here who can easily be written up; you take a seat and I'll go out and find one and bring him in." In a few minutes he came back with the pleasant-faced, rather plainly dressed man, whom he introduced, saying: "Mr. Green, I want to introduce you to Mr. Fessenden, who has been thinking of life-insurance, and would like to have you give him a full explanation of the principles of the business and of the plans of the Company." He turned to me and said: "He don't talk much, but he is very anxious to hear; tell him the whole story." Mr. Fessenden bowed, extended his hand for a shake, and sat down in a listening attitude, and I began. If I ever tried to give a full history of life insurance, I did this time; he looked pleased and interested. I then took up the plans of the Company, and expatiated upon their many advantages at some length, concluding with the question: "Well, Mr. Fessenden, what do you think of life insurance?" There was no answer, but the same steady, pleasant gaze. "Is there anything further which I can explain to you?" Again no answer and no change of expression. It had just dawned upon me that there were mice in the building, when a ripple of laughter came from the head of the stairway, and Mr. Fessenden handed me a card bearing the inscription: "I am deaf and dumb; Mr. See said you would make me hear if anybody could." In my fierce anger I hurried my chair at the open stairway; after a prolonged rumbling, mixed with hard words, I heard from the bottom a voice saying: "Well, he said he wanted to hear, and I knew you wanted to talk." This closed my engagement with Mr. See; I can't bear a man who will take advantage of unsophisticated innocence in any such way.

Some things Concerning Sacramento.

Sacramento has about 26,000 inhabitants.

Thirty years ago the entire ground covered by the city (2½ square miles) and its vicinity did not contain 100 souls.

The price of passage from San Francisco to Sacramento in '49 ranged from \$16 to \$25.

On the 13th of November, 1849, the people of Sacramento voted on the new Constitution, casting 4,317 votes for to 643 against it.

The same Fall flour was worth \$50 a barrel, mutton \$1 a pound. Carpenters got \$16 a day each.

In January, 1850, a flood swept over the city and destroyed much property. A levee was built the same year at a cost of \$147,026 97.

A great fire laid the city in ashes on the 2d of November, 1852; a terrible flood soon followed, and on the 13th of July, 1854, another great fire occurred.

In January, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold in the American river, 23 miles above Sacramento.

The first California gold was exchanged for American goods in Sacramento.

The mean temperature of the climate at Sacramento is about 60 degrees.

The average annual rainfall is about 20 inches, which insures good crops. But little rain falls from the last of April to October 1st.

Sacramento is called the graveyard of newspapers.

The great flood of 1861 visited the city on the night of December 9th. A month later, January 10th, another and heavier flood came, but this was the last.

In 1850 Sacramento had 6,820 people—nearly all adult males.

The Bee will soon be 21 year old—Sacramento Bee.

You can't depend on Kansas flour. A loaf of bread passed into Leavenworth Jail contained two files, a bottle of acid and a roll of money. A country which grows such wheat as that cannot expect to get ahead very fast.

Exciting Game of Poker on the Mississippi.

The following story is told by an old pioneer: "Poker is a remarkable game. There isn't no limit to the regular game, you know, although you can make one of course. But I mean the regular old game they used to play on the Mississippi, in the good old times, when those southern fellows would, on a five-cent ante, raise in a black negro, or a steamboat, or a plantation. Anything, everything went. That reminds me of a little game I saw played. It was a powerful long time ago. I was a cabin boy then at seven dollars a month, and good wages that was considered. We were going from St. Louis down to New Orleans and had a fair crowd of passengers. Well, after we got well down the river—about Natchez I think—there came aboard four fellows who evidently were looking for a little game. As it afterwards leaked out, they had a pot between them all of about \$10,000, and had agreed if they got a soft thing—somebody who couldn't size the pile—to raise him out. You understand. Well, on the boat there was one of those collectors for a St. Louis house, who about twice a year used to make the round trip, and take home the money he would collect from people all along the river, and those collectors used to collect powerful lots of money in those days. When he came aboard at one of the stopping places, he gave the clerk a small package to put in the safe. The four fellows spotted him out and it wasn't long before the five were seated near the Captain's office playing a little five-cent ante game—just to pass the time they said. This collector was rather a small sized, thin, wiry looking chap, and a pair of mild blue eyes that would have looked well on a handsome woman. The four were about the average of the black-legs who used to travel up and down the river. Well, the game went on quietly enough. They had their drinks, and I would occasionally get a twenty-five cent piece when a good pot was raked in. They let the collector win until he had a pile of shinplasters ahead—guess some six or seven hundred dollars. He wasn't bit excited, but played what you would call an average game. One of them dealt and the collector had three aces. They raised it all around, mild like until after the draw. The collector drew two cards—one was an ace, another a king—one of those invincible fellows. Then the four began to raise, one after another. The collector stoned them all, and finally went down into his inside pocket and drew out his wallet. He must have had five thousand dollars in big bills. He quietly went three thousand better. That was what the four were awaiting for. They were sure they had seized his pile. The leader saw his three thousand, laid his six-shooter down on the table, and planking down ten thousand said: "I go you ten thousand better, and give you just five minutes to raise the money." The game by this time had attracted general attention. The Captain of the boat was looking on—so were nearly all the passengers. The collector was just a trifle pale, but his blue eyes looked a little singular. I stood at his elbow, eyes and ears all open. Finally he said, quiet-like: "See here, stranger, you'd better draw that last bet. I don't like to put so much money on a single hand." Five minutes, said the leader of the four. Again the little chap asked him to draw that last bet and give him a sight for the money up. But—"Five minutes and two already gone," said the man who expected to out raise his victim. The little collector turned to the clerk and tell him to let me have that package out of the safe." Then he drew his six-shooter, and fully cocked laid it before him. Then you could see his meant business by the glitter of his blue eye. The leader of the party was already raking in the pot, but when the little chap laid down that six-shooter he stopped. I hurried over to the clerk who gave me the package. It was done up in a newspaper tied up with a twine. The blue-eyed man untied it, quiet-like, took the package of bills in one hand, the pistol in the other, and said without the least excitement: "I see your ten thousand dollars, go you ninety thousand better, and give you just fifteen minutes to raise the money." Well, you ought to have seen those fellows. They couldn't stand the raise; they didn't dare to raise a row for the sympathy was with the plucky little man. They got off at the landing the sick lot of rascals you ever saw. That's the way they used to play poker on the Mississippi when I was a cabin boy."

Detectives in Science.

Another Egyptian Date Established.

At a meeting of the French Academy of inscriptions, held some time since, M. de Sauley read a paper in regard to a discovery by the scholar Chabas, which, for the first time, introduced a positive date into the oldest Egyptian history. Hitherto, the distinguished Egyptologist, M. de Rouge, has only succeeded in establishing three dates with absolute certainty—the years 1300, 1240 and 962 B. C., the last of these being that of the taking of Jerusalem by Sheshonk I, the Shishak of the Bible. But two or three months ago M. Chabas was fortunate enough to succeed in reading a doubtful cartouche (royal name enclosed in an oval figure) in the famous Ebers papyrus, a fac simile of which was published last year. It proved to be the name of the Pharaoh Menekers, the Mycerinus of the Greek historians and the builder of the third or smallest pyramid at Gizeh. Attached to the cartouche was an astronomical note, stating that the heliacal rising on the star Sothis occurred in the ninth year of the reign of Menekers. The ancient Egyptians had the habit of signalizing important political events by some contemporaneous astronomical phenomenon. Many of the latter could scarcely be identified or determined now; but since we know that their Sothis is our star Sirius, we are easily able to fix the rare periods of its heliacal rising. This is the astronomical term used when a star, after being in conjunction with the sun and invisible, emerges from the light sufficiently to be seen just before sun rise. M. Chabas immediately took his discovery to the astronomer Biot, who made the necessary calculations, whence it appears that the heliacal rising of Sothis in the ninth year of the reign of Menekers, must have taken place between the years 3007 and 3010 B. C. M. de Sauley stated that he had made the calculation independently, and with precisely the same result; he was entirely convinced of the correctness of the date. As the first assured step toward establishing, if only in its general outlines, the chronology of the ancient Egyptian empire, the discovery is of incalculable importance. It fixes the age of the third pyramid of Gizeh at about 4880 years, and antedates by fully 1770 years, the earliest accurately ascertained point in ancient chronology.

Anecdotes of a Dead French Dramatist.

Barriere, the French dramatist, who died a few weeks ago, once met a pretty actress whose protector had deserted her, and, opening the door of the coupe, did all in his power to console the unhappy woman, who was sobbing in the corner of the seat. But she would not be comforted. "No, no," she cried, "I can never smile again. I must drown myself." Very well," said Barriere, calmly shutting the door. "We shall meet at the morgue. Coachman, drive this lady to the river."

And yet Barriere meditated suicide himself once upon a time, had a pistol and loaded, and called a friend to receive his dying wishes. The friend did not attempt to dissuade him, but calmly jotted down the dying wishes. Then, while Barriere was writing a farewell letter, took up the pistol and began examining it. It was cocked and the muzzle was pointed directly at Barriere. The intended suicide ducked under the table with remarkable agility, crying, "Look out! the d—d thing is loaded! You will be shooting the first thing you know."

Barriere was once ambushed at a restaurant by a couple of young actresses who wanted two seats for the first night of one of his new pieces, where seats were valuable. A friend, who was at the table with him, knowing his weakness in such matters, stepped on his toe as a warning. "Not necessary," said Barriere, I had already stepped on it myself."

A poor woman called on him one day, told her tale of suffering, enlisted his sympathies and got ten francs from him. After she had gone he saw something sparkling on the table where she had sat. He examined it. "A tear," he said, "a real tear! I should have given her twenty."

Law of Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscription.

2. If any subscriber orders the discontinuance of their newspapers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their newspapers from the offices to which they are directed, the law holds them responsible until they have settled their bills, and ordered them discontinued.

4. If subscribers move to other places without informing the publisher, and the newspapers are sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

5. The Courts have decided that refusing to take a paper from the office, or removing, and leaving it uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

6. The postmaster who neglects to give the legal notice of the neglect of a person to take from the office the newspapers addressed to him, is liable to the publisher for the subscription price.

A Puzzled Poker Player.

Four gentlemen were traveling from the far West to New York City for the purpose of buying goods. As the journey was long and tedious they concluded to while away the time at a game of euchre. Fritz had been in the habit of playing draw-poker, so every time he was dealt a good poker hand he would remark:

"Well, I play poker mit you on dis hand."

The other parties would say: "Oh, never mind poker; go on with the game we were playing."

Pretty soon Fritz would get another hand, and out it would come:

"I play poker mit you on dis hand."

"Oh, never mind poker; go on with the game."

He talked so much about poker that the party thought finally that they would give him enough of it. One of them left the table, got another deck of cards similar to the one they had been playing with, and "put them up" for the occasion. Fritz left the table a moment for a glass of water, and while absent the new pack was substituted, and was being dealt as he returned. The dealer turned up a queen. On looking at his hand Fritz found he had four kings. He said immediately:

"I play poker mit you on dis hand."

One of the party, who had dealt himself four aces, looked at his hand once, then looked at the queen which had been turned up, then at his hand, and again at the queen. Finally he said:

"Well, now, Fritz, since you seem anxious to play poker, I'll tell you what I'll do. If you will let me take that queen up, I will give you a little hand at poker."

"All right," says Fritz; "all right you takes up de queen."

The queen was taken up and the betting commenced. Fritz bet off \$50. John N. raised him \$50. Fritz raised that \$100. John went \$500 better, and so the betting went on until poor Fritz had put up all the money he had brought to buy goods with. When the money was all exhausted and it came to a call, John showed down his four aces and his queen and took the money. Fritz didn't say a word, but went on with the game of euchre for about half an hour. Finally he looked up with a perplexed countenance, and remarked interrogatively:

"John, I be thinks all dis while what queen have to do mit hand."

To Paris.

Many exhibitors will want to go to Paris whether their presence is necessary or not to the proper display of their contributions to the fair, and all who have had no experience in foreign travel will be glad to see an estimate of the cost of the trip. First-class passage to Paris and back by way of Liverpool, Southampton or Havre will cost from \$200 to \$250, according to the line of steamers selected. Living in Paris cost about the same as living in New York. Hotels are dearer if the guest orders all he is in the habit of ordering in an American hotel, but cheaper if he lives as foreigners do. Board at respectable pensions can be had at all prices from \$5 a week upwards; \$10 will probably get a good room and a fair table, but not in favorite localities, such as near the boulevards or the Champs Elysees. Incidental expenses, such as omnibus fares, newspapers, bootblacks, cigars (I will not add drinks), etc., etc., cost about as much in American cities. Nothing is cheap except cab hire. I should say that an American, accustomed to economical habits might leave home with \$500 in his pocket and spend three months very comfortably at the exhibition. Of course he could not frequent the Cafe Anglais or go often to the grand opera, or dine every day in the Bois, or indulge incautiously in any of the numerous fascinating diversions of Parisian life. But he could see the exhibition, the city, the picture galleries and the people thoroughly.

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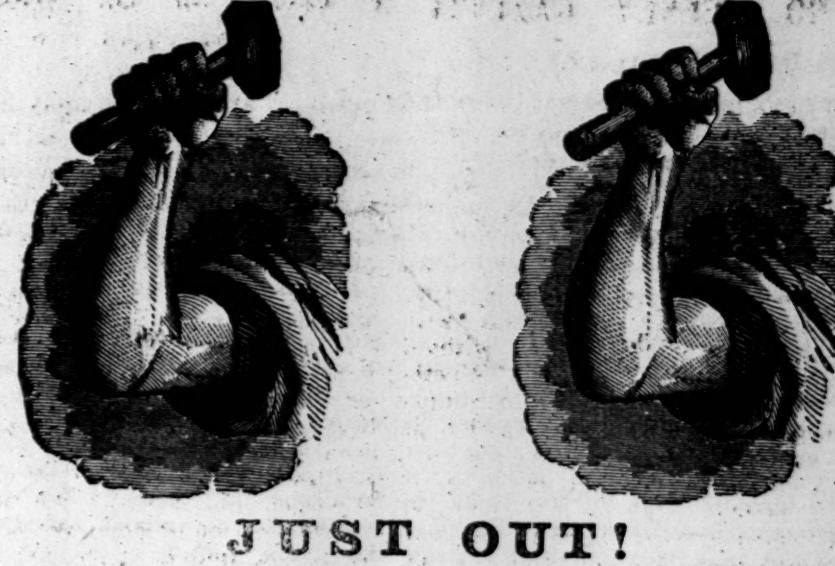
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SULPHUR MINE LEASED.

The Pacific Sulphur Company's mine and works at Rabbit Hole have been leased for five years by John Skinner, 115 Pine street, San Francisco, with the privilege of buying the property at a given price whenever he feels disposed to do so. New and more extensive works are to be erected immediately. C. S. Osborn will continue to superintend the works, as heretofore.

MECHANICS' STORE AGAIN ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.



JUST OUT!

New Story Paper and Complete Fall Price List

SEND FOR A COPY!

MAILED FREE TO ANY ADDRESS.

FULL AND COMPLETE LINE OF

Men's, Boy's and Children's Clothing,

DIRECT FROM NEW YORK MANUFACTURERS.

FULL ASSORTMENT OF WHITE SHIRTS DIRECT FROM TROY MANUFACTURERS.

Complete line of Ladies', Misses' and Children's as we'll as Men's and Boys' BOOTS and SHOES, from first hands, and made expressly for us.

TRUNKS, VALISES, SATCHELS AND TRAVELING BAGS

In endless variety, at less than San Francisco prices.

BLANKETS in all grades; Comforters, Quilts and Bed Spreads in many qualities.

Latest styles of Men's, Boys' and Children's HATS, imported direct from Eastern manufacturers.

Complete line of Ladies' FANCY GOODS. Bargains in job lots bought daily.

Men's, Youths' and Boys' OVERSHIRTS, UNDERWEAR and HOISERY bought in large quantities, from manufacturers and jobbers, at bottom prices.

Receiving daily, Men's, Boys' and Youths' OVERCOATS.

Just opening out, complete line of RUBBER and OIL SKIN GOODS.

FILLING IN RAPIDLY.

COMPLETE LINE OF DRY GOOS.

We allow no house on the Pacific coast to undersell us. All our goods are in plain figures. We have but ONE PRICE. By this method the poorest judge of goods obtains as much for his money as the closest and sharpest buyer.

